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Budleigh Salterton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

--- For 1937 ---

Of the Vital Statistics,

Sanitary Work, &c.,

By

CLARENCE BEESLEY, D.P.H. (Camb.), &c.

Medical Officer of Health.

S. A. & P. E. Pope, Budleigh Salterton.

FAIRFORD,
EXMOUTH.
May 23rd, 1937.

To the—

Chairman and Members of the
Budleigh Salterton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present my 36th Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937. The various headings which are set out are those prescribed by the Ministry of Health and they will be adhered to in this Report. They are as follows :—

1 Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

2 General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

3 Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

4 Housing.

5 Inspection and Supervision of Food.*

* It is stated in the Circular as to the contents and arrangement of this Annual Report, that it will not be necessary to repeat matter which has appeared in previous Reports, save where it is wished to call attention to old defects not yet remedied.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 1,018

Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1937 3,334

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books 1,220

Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate, £42,821. £170.

		Total.	*Male.*	*Female.*
Live Births	Legitimate	30	14	16
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
Stillbirths		1	0	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 8.9

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 32.2

	Total.	*Male.*	*Female.*
Deaths	65	31	34

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.7

Deaths from puerperal causes 0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births, 133.3

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 133.3

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 10

,, Measles (all ages), 0

,, Whooping Cough (all ages), 0

,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 0

TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.—The deaths of 11 persons which occurred outside the District must be added to the 54 registered within the Area, making a total of 65.

A factor .71 has been supplied by the Ministry of Health, by which the crude death rate of the area should be multiplied in order to make it comparable from a mortality point of view with the crude death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area the crude death rate of which should be similarly modified with its own factor for the purpose.

The figures for England and Wales are as follows :—
Birth Rate, 14.9 per 1,000.
Death Rate, 12.4 per 1,000.
Death Rate under 1 year of age, 58 per 1,000.
Maternal Mortality, 3.23 per 1,000.

It will be observed that the Infant Mortality, 133.3 per 1,000, is more than double that for England and Wales. Infant mortality is a very sensitive index of the health of a community, because of the frailty of infant life, and the variety of factors involved, many of which are social and personal as well as environmental.

Three out of the 4 deaths were due to premature birth, the infants only surviving for a few hours, and none were illegitimate. So that it might reasonably be stated that the high death rate was due to causes beyond human control.

The district is a residential one, the principal occupations being fishing, the building trade and the letting of apart-

ments. Owing to its delightful situation and equable climate it is admirably adapted for invalids and children, and those retiring from active work.

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.
(i.) *Medical officer of Health :* C. BEESLEY, D.P.H. (Camb.), also M.O.H. Exeter Port Sanitary Authority.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : J. B. HOLDEN, M. & Cy.E., Associate Royal Sanitary Institute.

(ii.) A.—Laboratory Facilities.
B.—Nursing in the Home.
C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.
D.—Hospitals.

There have been no developments or changes in the above Services provided in the Area.

2. There have been no changes in the Service provided under the following heads :—

i.—Midwifery and Maternity Services.
ii.—Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.
iii.—Health Visitors.
iv.—Infant Life Protection (as amended by the Children and Young Persons' Act, 1932).
v.—Orthopaedic Treatment.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER. A continuous supply of pure potable water is delivered to all parts of the district, and the County Analyst's report is as follows :—

CHEMICAL (Results expressed as parts per 100,000).

Hardness as Calcium Carbonate, Temporary 14.8, Permanent 10.4, Total	25.2
Chlorides, as Chlorine	3.4
Ammonia, free and Saline, as Nitrogen	nil
Ammonia, Albuminoid, as Nitrogen	.0014
Nitrates, as Nitrogen	0.5
Nitrites, as Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37 °C.	.010
Metals, Lead, Copper, Zinc	absent

Remarks : Sample clear and free from Sediment.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37 °C.), 40 per C.C.

Total organisms growing on agar (3 days at 20 °C.), 50 per C.C.

Bacillus Coli present in 50 C.C., absent in 20 C.C.

Probably number of coli-aerogenes organisms per C.C, 2.

CONCLUSIONS.

This sample is of a satisfactory degree of purity and suitable for drinking purposes.

T. LAWSON McEWAN,

County Bacteriologist.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. No important extension of sewerage has been necessary, and the arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area, are adequate.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS. No evidence of pollution of rivers or streams in the district.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING. No changes under this heading. Refuse is collected twice weekly.

5. SHOPS. No action necessary under the Shops Act, 1934, which deals with the ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops.

6. SMOKE ABATEMENT. No nuisance from smoke in the area has arisen during the year.

7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. None in the district.

8. SCHOOLS. Water supply and sanitary condition satisfactory. They are disinfected during the holidays. Cases of infectious disease are promptly notified to me, and measures taken for preventing dissemination on the lines of the "Memorandum on Closure of, and Exclusion from School, 1927."

Section D.

Housing.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year*—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 7

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 10

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. 3

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 5

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 2

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices*—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 2

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year*—

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners .... nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners .... nil

(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners .... nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners .... nil

(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... nil

(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... nil

4.—*Housing Act,* 1936.—*Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	1
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	5
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	nil
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	nil
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding			nil
(e).—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report			nil

Plans and specifications for 12 houses and 4 flats have been prepared for the Council, together with the necessary land. The total capital cost of the scheme has been calculated at £7,000.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a). MILK SUPPLY. There are 8 registered cow-sheds and dairies in the district, and they all comply with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special

Designations) Orders, 1923 and 1936. They were visited and inspected on 48 occasions.

Samples of milk taken for examination :—

Adulteration	nil	
	Satisfactory	
Cleanliness	28	10
Tuberculosis	3	3

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are 3 bakehouses in the district and they have been inspected on 8 occasions. Their general condition was satisfactory, and in conformity with the Regulations.

Notice of slaughtering is duly carried out in the case of the one licensed slaughter-house in the district. No meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC. No action taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. When considered expedient, these examinations would be conducted by the County Analyst, Dix's Field, Exeter.

(c) NUTRITION. No special work has been done on this subject.

Section F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Disease.

Six cases of notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year, none of which ended fatally, viz. :—

Enteric Fever	1
Chicken Pox	3
Erysipelas	2

CANCER.

There were 10 cases of Cancer (compared with 5 in 1936, 7 in 1935, and 6 in 1934).

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	NIL	.....	.....
35	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
55	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
65 & upwards	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	2	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

A detailed list of the causes of death, etc., is given at the end of this Report, and also a report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act.

My best thanks are due to Mr. Hill and Mr. Holden (Clerk and Sanitary Inspector respectively) for their help in the compilation of this Report, and our thanks are due to the other Employees of the Council for the satisfactory way in which they have carried out their duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. BEESLEY.

Causes of Death in Budleigh Salterton Urban District in 1937.

	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	27	27
Liver disease	1	1
Digestive disease	1	0
Nephritis—Acute and Chronic	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis and other puerperal diseases	0	0
Congenital debility, Premature birth, etc.	3	0
Senility	0	1
Suicide, violence	0	0
Other defined disease	0	3
Diarrhoea, 2 years and over	0	0
Diabetes	2	0
Cerebral haemorrhage	2	4
Heart disease	6	6
Other circulatory diseases	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1
Appendicitis	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system and other tuberculosis	0	0
Syphilis	0	0
Cancer	5	5
Influenza	2	0

It will be noted that there are no deaths from "the seven principal diseases of the Zymotic Class," viz., Smallpox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Fever (typhus, typhoid and simple continued).

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, 1937.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.

	Inspections.	*Written Notices.*	*Occupiers prosecuted.*
Factories	2	none	none
Workshops	5	none	none
Workplaces	4	none	none
Total	11		

Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Particulars.	*Number of Defects.*			*Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.*
	Found.	*Remedied.*	*Referred to H.M. Inspector.*	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of cleanliness	none	none	none	none
Want of ventilation	,,	,,	,,	,,
Overcrowding.....	,,	,,	,,	,,
Want of drainage of floors	,,	,,	,,	,,
Other nuisances	,,	,,	,,	,,
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	nil	nil	,,	,,
Unsuitable or defective	,,	,,	,,	,,
Not separate for sexes	,,	,,	,,	,,
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	,,	,,	nil	nil
Other offences	,,	,,	,,	,,
Total	nil	nil	nil	nil